

Meeting Minutes
Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission
October 13, 2006

In attendance: Mike Zollinger, Ken Hansen, Rhett McQuiston, James Valdez, Rene DeLuca, Thad Levar Scott Reed, Rick Norton, Mike Stidham.

Per Diem sheet signed.

1. Budget & Legislative Issues:

- a. Executive Director Comment: Francine Giani has met with Chairman Hansen to discuss budget issues. The Commission needs to look at ways to save money and avoid going over budget in the future.
- b. Series Fees/Contest Fees/Administrative Fees: The Commission has incurred increased costs due to the increased number of events during the past year. Zollinger is working on a tally of the exact total of events. Commission funding needs to increase in order to cover the increased operating costs. **Valdez made a motion to consider all contest application fees as single 'event fees' rather than 'series fees' as currently written in the rules, since there is currently no language pertaining to 'series fees'. Motion was tabled.**
- c. Using Fewer Inspectors- Commissioner in Charge: The Commission could save money by rotating inspectors and by possibly cutting back on the number of inspectors used at certain venues.
- d. Mileage Guidelines: There was a question about whether the Commission was required to pay inspectors for all mileage. Inspectors can choose not to accept a per diem or mileage reimbursement, but the Commission is otherwise obligated to pay this amount.

2. **Conflict of Interest Issue:** McQuiston wanted the Commission to be aware that a friend and business associate of his who is also a professional boxer (James Sudden, Golden Gloves Champion), is going to be fighting in Utah in the future. McQuiston wanted the Commission to be aware that if any discussion or decisions ever come before this Commission regarding this fighter, he would have a conflict of interest and would need to recuse himself from the discussion.

3. Suspensions/Fines:

- a. Use of Fines as Opposed to Letters of Warnings/Suspensions: Immediate suspensions can be used if the licensee is causing imminent danger to himself or to others. A fine can be imposed on an individual through the process of a notice of agency action and formal hearing process.
- b. Monies From Fines to Possibly be Used to Fund Amateur Unarmed Combat: A legislative change would be required to read that all monies collected from fines would go to amateur boxing or amateur MMA funds.
- c. Dave Wolfe/MMA/Unsportsmanlike Behavior: Mr. Wolfe was seen pushing and swearing at a UCE cameraman and other unprofessional and

unsportsmanlike conduct after the match ended. **McQuiston moved that a fine of \$50.00 be imposed on Dave Wolfe for unprofessional conduct. Deluca Seconded the Motion. Motion passed.**

- d. Devin Coggins: **Valdez made a motion to remove the suspension on Devin Coggins. McQuiston seconded. Motion passed.**

4. **Upcoming Schedule of Events/Coverage**: Zollinger handed out a calendar of events running through November 18th. Commissioners were asked to sign up to cover both MMA and boxing events. Commissioners are not needed at MMA weigh-in events.

a. Flash Newman: Bad Check for Contest Fee/Underpayment of Gate Receipt: Mr. Newman's most recent \$250.00 contest fee was returned for insufficient funds. He now has until next Friday (October 20th) at 5:00 p.m. to make his \$250.00 contest application fee good or his next event in this series will be cancelled. Several contestants have also called the Commission to complain that Flash has given them bad checks as well. In addition, Flash was recently fined \$200 and that check was returned for insufficient funds as well. **Hansen made a motion that all future application fees and fines collected from Flash Newman be on a cash or money order basis. Checks will not be accepted. Valdez seconded. Motion passed.** A letter will be sent to Newman concerning the possibility of requiring him to pay his fighters up front in cash as well.

At a recent event, Zollinger conducted a head count and came up with a higher number than reported by Flash on his gate receipt. When brought to Flash's attention, Flash told Zollinger he would make the gate report good and would pay the difference. Flash stated he does not have an accurate method to get a full head count at these events. Based on the headcount performed by Zollinger that night, Flash owes the Commission another \$53. 25. It was decided that this issue would also be addressed in the letter of concern to be drafted and sent to Flash.

**Next Meeting: November 3, 2006, 1:00 pm
Room 210, Heber M. Wells Building**